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WAPA balancing authority to join Northwest Power Pool reserve sharing group

WAPA has selected Northwest Power Pool as its new reserve sharing group for the Western Area Colorado-Missouri balancing authority.

NWPP will begin providing reserve sharing group services to WACM and participating BA members Aug. 1.

This change is only for WACM BA; other WAPA BAs will not be affected. Reserve sharing is about reliability and is separate from market efforts.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation requires all BAs to provide contingency reserves to ensure there are sufficient generation resources to accommodate the BA's single largest generator in case the generator is unavailable for any reason.

Reserve sharing groups are one option to provide contingency reserves by allowing multiple utilities to pool their generation resources and share the reserve requirement across all participating utilities.

WAPA, along with other members of the Rocky Mountain Reserve Group, began exploring new reserve sharing group providers in late 2018 when the group's members voted to move forward with finding another service provider and dissolve the Rocky Mountain Reserve Group.

WAPA selected Northwest Power Pool because it provides WACM, its customers and other participating BA members a lower overall contingency requirement while continuing to ensure reliable grid operation in the most efficient and economical manner. WACM is expected to experience up to a 30% cost decrease in hour-to-hour reserve requirements.

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