



Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213

6/10/22

Dear Colleagues:

Extreme weather conditions and drought may constrain generation and potentially lead to insufficient supply and emergency situations within Balancing Authorities (BA) in the Western Interconnection this summer. In preparation, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is evaluating available electric power from our hydropower resources to assist neighboring systems during emergency situations.

WAPA is a diverse organization spanning a 15-state region of the central and western U.S. WAPA's regional offices are in Phoenix, Arizona (Desert Southwest Region), Loveland, Colorado (Rocky Mountain Region), Folsom, California (Sierra Nevada Region), and Billings, Montana (Upper Great Plains Region), as well as the Colorado River Storage Project Management Center located in Montrose, Colorado, (collectively, regions), and a Headquarters Office located in Lakewood, Colorado. WAPA markets power from Federal powerplants operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the International Boundary and Water Commission, and transmit that power over more than 17,000 miles of transmission lines through 296 substations to around 700 cities and towns, rural electric cooperatives, public utility districts, irrigation districts, Federal and state agencies, and Native American tribes. This diverse range of customers include entities within the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) BA, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) Integrated Marketplace, both the CAISO and SPP real-time markets, and entities and markets outside these organized constructs.

Each region or power project within WAPA's footprint operates independently under separate statutory authority and has distinct operational and environmental characteristics. Each region continuously monitors conditions as they evolve and independently determines the appropriate steps to coordinate with neighboring utilities and BAs in an emergency. These steps are intended to address rapidly developing situations but not to alter WAPA's statutory and/or contractual obligations, affect participation in any reserve sharing group, or circumvent the many environmental and operational complexities that are unique to each power project.

Uncontrollable factors, such as continuing drought and other environmental constraints, could limit WAPA's ability to support neighboring utilities in an emergency; thus, support is not guaranteed. WAPA's priority for power delivery is and will continue to be for the benefit of its project use and preference power customers. In addition to WAPA's statutory obligation to its project use and preference power customers, WAPA must also ensure it meets its Transmission Service Provider and BA ancillary and reliability requirements.

WAPA advises utilities to communicate early with their appropriate marketing contacts to ensure protocols are understood and in place. If a utility projects a load/resource imbalance, it should first attempt to resolve the situation through normal marketing contacts.

WAPA's regional and power project contacts are:

Energy Management and Marketing Office Manager or Market Operator	Power Project and/or Region	Contact Information
CRSP Energy Marketing Manager, and/or Real time Merchant Desk	Colorado River Storage Project and Loveland Area Projects	Mtr-Mrk@wapa.gov Tel: 970-252-3002
John Paulsen	Desert Southwest Region	Paulsen@wapa.gov Tel: 623-640-8521
Charles Faust	Sierra Nevada Region	SNRRTMerchant@wapa.gov
Southwest Power Pool Operations	Upper Great Plains Region	Tel: 501-614-3900

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact me at LeBeau@wapa.gov, or Tina Ko, Acting Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at TKo@wapa.gov.

Sincerely,

**Tracey A.
Lebeau**

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Tracey A. LeBeau
Chief Executive Officer
and Administrator