



Western Interconnection Synchrophasor Program

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **WECC RECEIVES \$53.9 MILLION IN RECOVERY ACT FUNDING FOR PROJECT TO ENHANCE RELIABILITY IN THE WESTERN INTERCONNECTION**

**VANCOUVER, Wa.** – The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) today confirmed that it has received U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) funding totaling \$53.9 million that will be used for the implementation of its Western Interconnection Synchrophasor Program (WISP).

The funding, which was awarded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Smart Grid Investment Grant initiative, will help improve the reliability of the bulk transmission power grid that spans 14 western states. The funding will match dollars already committed by nine WISP partners<sup>1</sup> in the West to extend and deploy synchrophasor technologies within their electrical systems. The total funding for WISP is \$107.8 million.

A synchrophasor is a piece of hardware which provides real-time information about the performance of electrical transmission systems. The project will install more than 200 new Phasor Measurement Units (PMU), tie them together with a secure communications network, and deploy the software tools needed to manage an increasingly complex power grid.

“This award represents a significant landmark in improving the day-to-day management and reliability of the Western Interconnection,” said Mark Maher WECC Chief Operating Officer and WISP Program Director. “While the West has a long history of deploying synchrophasors, this grant will allow WECC and the WISP partner entities to deliver major improvements in reliability and economic growth.”

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<sup>1</sup> Bonneville Power Administration, CAISO/ California Energy Commission/Electric Power Group, Idaho Power, NV Energy, PacifiCorp, PG&E, Southern California Edison, Salt River Project, and WECC.

The interconnection-wide synchrophasor system will enable smart grid functionality, such as improved integrated system operation and increased transmission capability.

“In addition to increasing the economic efficiency of the Western Interconnection, the award will be instrumental in helping to resolve the issue of integrating an ever increasing amount of intermittent renewable resources onto the grid,” added Maher. “We commend the DOE for its considered review and subsequent award.”

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**Notes to editors:**

1 WECC – one of eight electric reliability councils in North America, encompassing a geographic area equivalent to over half the United States – is responsible for promoting electric system reliability and providing a forum for coordinating the operating and planning activities of its member organizations. WECC members — representing all segments of the electric industry — provide electricity in 14 western states, two Canadian provinces, and portions of one Mexican state.

2 WECC’s response to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Funding Opportunity Announcement DE-FOA-0000058 can be found at [DE-FOA-0000058](https://www.energy.gov/foia/foia-0000058).

3 **Western Interconnection Synchrophasor Program Partner Entities:**

Bonneville Power Administration:	<a href="http://www.bpa.gov">www.bpa.gov</a>
California Independent System Operator:	<a href="http://www.caiso.com">www.caiso.com</a>
California Energy Commission:	<a href="http://www.energy.ca.gov">www.energy.ca.gov</a>
Electric Power Group:	<a href="http://www.electricpowergroup.com">www.electricpowergroup.com</a>
Idaho Power Inc.:	<a href="http://www.idahopower.com">www.idahopower.com</a>
NV Energy:	<a href="http://www.nvenergy.com">www.nvenergy.com</a>
PacifiCorp:	<a href="http://www.pacificorp.com">www.pacificorp.com</a>
PG&E:	<a href="http://www.pge.com">www.pge.com</a>
Southern California Edison:	<a href="http://www.sce.com">www.sce.com</a>
Salt River Project:	<a href="http://www.srpnet.com">www.srpnet.com</a>
Western Electricity Coordinating Council	<a href="http://www.wecc.biz">www.wecc.biz</a>