

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

OFFICE OF ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
Docket No. RD26-5-000

April 14, 2026

North American Electric Reliability Corporation
1401 H Street, N.W., Suite 410
Washington, DC 20005

Attention: Lauren Perotti, Assistant General Counsel
Alain Rigaud, Associate Counsel
North American Electric Reliability Corporation

Chris Albrecht, Assistant General Counsel
Western Electricity Coordinating Council

Reference: Petition of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation for
Approval of Retirement of Regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-
3

Dear Ms. Perotti and Mr. Albrecht:

On February 27, 2026, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) filed a joint petition seeking approval of the proposed retirement of currently effective Regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-3 (Contingency Reserve) to become effective on the first day of the first quarter following the effective date of the Commission's order approving the proposed retirement.

NERC and WECC explain that "[t]he purpose of currently effective Regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-3 is to specify the quantity and types of Contingency Reserve required to ensure reliable operation of the Western Interconnection under normal and abnormal conditions."¹ NERC and WECC further explain:

Regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-3 requires

¹ NERC Petition at 2-3 (footnote omitted).

applicable WECC entities to maintain reserves at levels that exceed those required under the continent-wide Reliability Standard BAL-002-3 – Disturbance Control Standard – Contingency Reserve for Recovery from a Balancing Contingency Event. Following a recent review of the regional standard, WECC identified that no technical basis supports the continued applicability of the standard, and that rather than advance reliability in the Western Interconnection, the regional standard may be presenting unnecessary challenges. WECC concluded that the retirement of Regional Reliability Standard BAL-002-WECC-3 would enhance reliability in the Western Interconnection by allowing resources that are currently required to be held as excess reserves to be used more efficiently to support reliable system operations, particularly as the resource mix continues to change with increasing levels of variable generation from Inverter-Based Resources (“IBR”), as well as serve other important public interests.²

Notice of NERC and WECC’s filing was published in the *Federal Register*, 91 Fed. Reg. 11302 (Mar. 9, 2026), with interventions and protests due on or before March 30, 2026. None was filed.

NERC and WECC’s uncontested filing is hereby approved pursuant to the relevant authority delegated to the Director of the Office of Electric Reliability under 18 C.F.R. § 375.303 (2025), effective as of the date of this order.

This action shall not be construed as approving any other application pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 375.303(a)(2)(i). Such action shall not be deemed as recognition of any claimed right or obligation associated therewith and such action is without prejudice to any findings or orders that have been or may hereafter be made by the Commission in any proceeding now pending or hereafter instituted by or against the Electric Reliability Organization or any Regional Entity.

This order constitutes final agency action. Requests for rehearing by the Commission may be filed within 30 days of the date of issuance of this order, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 385.713 (2025).

² *Id.* at 1-2.

Sincerely,

Kal Ayoub, Director
Office of Electric Reliability