



News Release

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California ISO welcomes Reliability Coordinator participants

Entities across western region sign agreements to take services in 2019

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) announced today it has finalized agreements with 32 of 39 electricity balancing authorities and transmission operators throughout the West expecting to receive Reliability Coordinator services from the ISO.

“We are pleased with the progress made this past year to offer Reliability Coordinator services, and welcome our new participants,” said Steve Berberich, president and CEO of the ISO. “After a year of intensive planning and coordination, the ISO will now focus on developing technology and integrating systems to meet our July 1 implementation date.”

A Reliability Coordinator (RC) has the highest level of authority and responsibility for the stability of the electric grid. An RC is required to comply with federal and regional grid reliability standards and can take measures to prevent or mitigate system emergencies in day-ahead or real-time operations.

In January 2018, the ISO announced plans to become its own RC and offer these services to other balancing authorities in the western United States, Canada, and Mexico. The existing RC provider, Peak Reliability, also announced it will discontinue RC services at the end of 2019.

Since then, the ISO has collaborated with entities, regulators, and other RC service providers to work toward its certification, and to create procedures for logistics and operations.

The ISO is moving forward to complete the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) certification process led by the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), and start providing RC services to all of California, as well as Northern Mexico, by July 2019. The ISO will offer RC services to the remaining entities in the fourth quarter of 2019.

In preparation for the transition from the existing RC provider, the ISO will follow a carefully staged plan to achieve system readiness.

- Improved tools will be added to the ISO technology platform for analyzing system compliance with national reliability standards.
- ISO will offer hosted application software to allow its RC customers to assess grid operations and gauge system compliance.
- The ISO developed a comprehensive training program for participants to fully leverage ISO services.
- Beginning in April, the ISO and its RC customers will test and confirm integration of systems.
- In May, the ISO will begin two months of operations in parallel with Peak in advance of the July implementation.
- A similar staged plan will be used to integrate other participants that join later.

Over the past year, the ISO formed a steering committee with representatives from prospective participants, which helped develop the concept and charter of an RC Oversight Committee. The Oversight Committee is expected to be operational by this spring and will give guidance and foster consensus on reliability compliance under the newly formed ISO RC.

The ISO also created working groups with subject matter experts to address operations planning; real-time operations; seams management; settlements; emergency response and power system restoration; data exchange; and training. These groups are comprised of representatives from entities committed to taking RC services from the ISO, and have been meeting regularly to craft solutions and processes for the new RC.

A public stakeholder initiative was launched in April 2018 for the rate design, terms, and conditions of the ISO RC, and on Nov. 14, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the proposal. This provided the ISO with a FERC-approved Services Agreement that could be sent to interested entities in the West. The ISO began accepting signed agreements immediately.

For more information and a list of entities with signed contracts for services, visit the ISO's [RC webpage](#).

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