

News Release

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California ISO's Reliability Coordinator gains regulatory approval RC West in midst of 'shadow operations'; new staff getting on-the-job training

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) announced today that its Reliability Coordinator operation attained its certification from the North American Energy Reliability Corp. (NERC), allowing it to offer services to electricity balancing authorities in the western states and part of Mexico beginning July 1, 2019.

The certification is a major milestone in the transition of grid oversight responsibility from Peak Reliability to the ISO's Reliability Coordinator unit, called RC West.

"The NERC certification is an important turning point in our effort to become the Reliability Coordinator for the western region," said Steve Berberich, ISO president and CEO. "This was a huge lift for our staff since beginning this venture in January 2018, and the certification speaks to the dedication and hard work across the organization."

A Reliability Coordinator has the highest level of authority and responsibility for the reliable operation of power grids, and has wide visibility of bulk electric systems. When fully operational, RC West will monitor the interconnected power grids in the West for compliance with federal and regional grid standards, authorize measures to prevent or mitigate system emergencies in day-ahead or real-time operations, and lead system restoration following major incidents.

The ISO has been conducting shadow operations for RC West since May 1. During this time period, RC West operators are tracking and mirroring the reliability coordination provided by Peak Reliability by participating in all communications, verifying system data, conducting operational analysis and monitoring system conditions using situational awareness tools.

RC West will become the Reliability Coordinator of record for 16 balancing authorities and transmission operators in California, including one in northern Mexico, starting July 1. In November, following additional review by NERC and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), the ISO anticipates that RC West will become the Reliability Coordinator of record to an additional 24 entities in the Western Interconnection.

At that point, RC West will have reliability oversight for 87 percent of the US electricity load in the Western Interconnection.



For more information on Reliability Coordinators and RC West, visit the ISO's [RC West webpage](#).

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