**Loads & Resources Data Request**

**TRANSAC**

**September 16, 2015**

**Update**

The 2015 Loads and Resources Data Request data was submitted to The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) in March. This year NorthWestern Energy (NWMT) sent thirty-four data requests to the large industrial customers and the Electric Cooperatives. Nineteen responses were received by email. In addition five customers reported by telephone that their data was the same as last year’s data. Overall, the response rate was about 71%. This was slightly higher than last year’s response.

WECC is in the process of revamping the spreadsheet used for the 2016 Loads and Resources Data Request. WECC is attempting to make this spreadsheet more user-friendly. They are thinking about sending two separate spreadsheets: One would be populated with NWMT’s information from last year, and the other would not have any information filled in. This way I would not have to erase the data before I send out the 2016 request to the large industrial customers and the Electric Cooperatives. Other changes should also be forthcoming.

NWMT sent the narrative for the 2015-2016 Winter Assessment to WECC the end of August. The report should be available on the NERC website sometime in November.

MOD-031-1, Demand and Energy Data, has been approved by FERC. The effective date is July 1, 2016. This standard will replace MOD-016-1.1, MOD-017-0.1, MOD-018-0, MOD-019-0.1, and MOD-021-1, which are otherwise known as MOD C Standards. This new standard will address the Loads and Resources Data Collection that is done in the January-February time frame each year. It will also inquire about Demand Side Management.

An interesting fact that the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) published in its July 13, 2015 issue of “EEI Daily Energy News” is that Gas has overtaken Coal at U.S. power stations:

The United States generated more of its electricity from gas than from coal for the first time ever in April. Plunging prices for natural gas led to it being used to generate 31 percent of America’s electricity in April, while coal contributed 30 percent. This was the first month in U.S. history that gas-fired electricity generation surpassed coal-fired generation.

However, the Edison Electric Institute in its August 27, 2015 issue of “EEI Daily Energy News” stated that in June coal generation was 34.9% and natural gas was 33.3%. For more information, go to [EEI Daily Energy News](http://www.eei.org/resourcesandmedia/products/Pages/ProductDetails.aspx?prod=0EF411D7-2C5C-43E5-B09F-2072E884CE20&type=S).