**Compliance**

**TRANSAC**

**September 16, 2015**

**Update**

The NERC/WECC Compliance Audit is over, and NorthWestern Energy came through with no fines. Two minor violations were noted, however these were corrected immediately. The next full-blown audit will be in 2018. NorthWestern Energy is currently in the middle of a FERC audit. This audit involves following FERC rules and regulations, in contrast to the NERC/WECC Compliance Audit.

On May 26, 2015, the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) reached a settlement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the Arizona-Southern California outages that occurred on September 8, 2011. This document is available on the FERC Website at [FERC Approves Final Settlement in 2011 Southwest Blackout Case](http://www.ferc.gov/media/news-releases/2015/2015-2/05-26-15.asp) . WECC did not admit to any fault related to the September 8th outage, but agreed that improvements could be made in reliability-related activities in the West.

One of the aftereffects of this outage is a new TPL standard. TPL-001, 002, 003, and 004 are all combined into one standard TPL-001. However, enhancements have “raised the bar” from the previous standards. More restrictions have been placed on load shedding and more contingencies must be modeled. Requirement R1, which lists system model specifications, and Requirement R7, which addresses an entity’s individual and joint responsibilities, went into effect January1, 2015. The rest of the Requirements, R2 through R6 and R8, become effective on January 1, 2016. In all, there are 65 requirements and sub requirements in this standard.

The WECC Board of Directors approved the company name change to **Reliability West.** It still needs members’ approval.

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.

A complete set of Reliability Standards, updated August 31, 2015, along with a Glossary of Terms, can be found at [http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Reliability%20Standards%20Complete%20Set/RSCompleteSet.pdf](http://www.nerc.com/pa/Stand/Glossary%20of%20Terms/Glossary_of_Terms.pdf)