**Northwest Public Power Association**

**Resolution 2023-04**

**Ensuring a Reliable Grid**

**Background**

Providing safe, reliable electricity at a reasonable price while protecting the environment has always been a fundamental responsibility of consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities.

In the years since Congress adopted mandatory and enforceable reliability standards in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 [Federal Power Act (FPA) section 215], reliability regulation has focused on a risk-based prioritization approach to standards development and auditing efforts. However, policymakers have become increasingly concerned about “resource adequacy” – the existence of sufficient capacity resources available for dispatch when needed at peak times – and also about the “resilience” of the grid – the ability to maintain reliability during extreme weather or other catastrophic events and to quickly restore power in the wake of a widespread outage, and is sometimes used to refer to the ability to secure generation or facilities as assurance against grid failure.

**NWPPA’s Position**

* NWPPA supports efforts to maintain and improve the reliability of the nation’s Bulk Electric System (BES).
* NWPPA supports risk-based reliability standards focusing only on facilities and entities that are critical to reliability of the BES per Section 215 of the FPA.
* NWPPA supports efforts to address resource adequacy concerns that are industry-led, recognize the value and flexibility of resources such as hydropower, and incorporate regional differences and local governance.
* NWPPA urges policymakers to ensure that any new resilience policies do not adversely impact the ability of local utilities to manage their respective distribution-level facilities in a safe and cost-effective manner.
* NWPPA supports the development of appropriate regional reliability standards based upon the operating characteristics of regional power grids as defined by local and regional experts.
* NWPPA supports the industry-led standard development process and advocates for NERC’s role as the lead to assure reliability of the BES.
* NWPPA urges good working relationships and consistent standard application and guidance from FERC, NERC, and regional reliability organizations, and urges reduction of unnecessary or duplicative standards and compliance documentation that does not directly impact the reliability of the BES.

Origination Date: 2011. Revised in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2023.