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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Rachel Sherrard (360) 213 2674

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**WECC SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DOE FOR \$53.9 MILLION  
IN SMART GRID INVESTMENT GRANT FUNDING**

*DOE funding will be matched by nine partner entities to improve the reliability of the bulk transmission power grid spanning 14 western states*

**VANCOUVER, Wa.** – The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) today confirmed that it has signed an agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to receive a \$53.9 million grant for the Western Interconnection Synchrophasor Program (WISP).

“Today’s agreement represents a significant landmark in improving transmission grid reliability,” said Mark Maher, WECC Chief Operating Officer and WISP Program Director. “This award from the DOE allows us to accelerate the installation of more than 250 new Phasor Measurement Units (PMU) in the Western Interconnection, which will enable WECC and the WISP partner entities to deliver major improvements in reliability and economic growth.”

The funding was awarded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act’s Smart Grid Investment Grant initiative. It will match dollars already committed by nine WISP partners<sup>1</sup> to extend and deploy synchrophasor technologies within their electrical systems. The total funding for WISP is \$107.8 million.

“We are delighted to have concluded negotiations with the DOE and that we can now transition WISP from the planning phase into full implementation,” Maher said.

A synchrophasor is a piece of hardware that provides real-time information about the performance of electrical transmission systems. The equipment alerts operators to existing and potential problems on the grid; and it improves the ability to integrate and manage intermittent

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<sup>1</sup> Bonneville Power Administration, California ISO/ California Energy Commission- Idaho Power, NV Energy, PacifiCorp, Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison, Salt River Project, and WECC.

renewable resources in the West.

Implemented systemwide, synchrophasor technologies will enable smart grid functionality, such as improved integrated system operation and increased transmission capability.

The West has a long history of deploying synchrophasors. The DOE award and partner contributions will be invested in synchrophasor infrastructure and software applications that will improve situational awareness, systemwide modeling, performance analysis, and wide-area monitoring and controls for the Western Interconnection.

“In addition to increasing the economic efficiency of the Western Interconnection, the award will be instrumental in helping to resolve the issue of integrating an ever increasing amount of intermittent renewable resources such as wind, solar and geothermal, onto the grid,” added Maher.

The project will install more than 250 new PMUs, tie them together with a secure communications network, and deploy the software applications and tools needed to manage an increasingly complex power grid.

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#### Notes to editors:

1 WECC is one of eight electric reliability councils in North America, encompassing a geographic area equivalent to over half the United States. It is responsible for promoting electric system reliability and providing a forum for coordinating the operating and planning activities of its member organizations. WECC members — representing all segments of the electric industry — provide electricity in 14 western states, two Canadian provinces, and portions of one Mexican state.

2 WECC’s response to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Funding Opportunity Announcement DE-FOA-0000058 can be found at [DE-FOA-0000058](https://www.energy.gov/foia/foia-0000058)

#### 3 **Western Interconnection Synchrophasor Program Partner Entities:**

Bonneville Power Administration:	<a href="http://www.bpa.gov">www.bpa.gov</a>
California Independent System Operator:	<a href="http://www.caiso.com">www.caiso.com</a>
California Energy Commission:	<a href="http://www.energy.ca.gov">www.energy.ca.gov</a>
Idaho Power Inc.:	<a href="http://www.idahopower.com">www.idahopower.com</a>
NV Energy:	<a href="http://www.nvenergy.com">www.nvenergy.com</a>
PacifiCorp:	<a href="http://www.pacificorp.com">www.pacificorp.com</a>
PG&E:	<a href="http://www.pge.com">www.pge.com</a>
Southern California Edison:	<a href="http://www.sce.com">www.sce.com</a>
Salt River Project:	<a href="http://www.srpnet.com">www.srpnet.com</a>
Western Electricity Coordinating Council	<a href="http://www.wecc.biz">www.wecc.biz</a>