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## ISO Board adopts interconnection process improvements

The Board and WEIM also approve proposal supporting Washington State's new GHG reporting requirement

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) Board of Governors adopted a proposal today aimed at streamlining the process of adding new energy resources to help meet the needs of an evolving grid.

Over the past decade, the ISO received an average of 113 interconnection proposals per year. But last year, as the state accelerated the pace of procurement for renewable and storage resources, applications for new projects more than tripled to 373 projects.

To mitigate the potential for processing delays due to the high number of requests, the ISO began meeting with stakeholders in 2021 to find ways to streamline the interconnection process.

The items that received Board approval within the [Interconnection Process Enhancement \(IPE\) Phase 2 proposal](#) help move projects forward more efficiently, enabling the ISO to better manage the queue by:

- Changing how projects are evaluated so the most viable and ready projects have highest priority;
- Appropriately balancing cost responsibility between developers and consumers for network upgrades to local transmission systems,
- Providing developers of projects located outside of the ISO footprint with a better defined process which will include reimbursement of their cost for network upgrades that is consistent with projects in the ISO's balancing area.

Other improvements in the IPE Phase 2 proposal that do not require Board approval include:

- Making more non-confidential information available and easier to access to help developers determine the best location to connect new capacity; and
- Enabling developers to provide more input during the interconnection planning process on required network upgrades.

For more information about the [IPE enhancements](#), visit our stakeholder initiative page, and read our blog, [Interconnection queue reforms going to ISO Board](#).

Additionally, the Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) Governing Body and the ISO Board of Governors at their joint meeting yesterday approved [a proposal](#) to

recognize the Washington-specific greenhouse gas emission (GHG) reference levels in the WEIM under Washington State's recently revised Clean Air Act.

The proposal also includes an approach for supporting certain reporting obligations under Washington's Climate Commitment Act, which created a cap-and-invest program starting in 2023.

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The California Independent System Operator (ISO) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation dedicated, with its partners, to continuous improvement and secure operation of a reliable grid operated for the benefit of consumers. It provides comprehensive grid planning, open and nondiscriminatory access to one of the largest networks of high-voltage transmission power lines in the world, and operates a \$9 billion competitive electricity market. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help provide a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.

The Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) is a real-time wholesale energy trading market that enables participants anywhere in the West to buy and sell energy when needed. The WEIM Governing Body is the governing authority designed by regional stakeholders and has shared authority with the ISO Board of Governors to resolve rules specific to participation in the WEIM.