

Navigating a Transforming Utility Landscape

NWESS 2026

University of Washington
Alder Hall
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Speaker: Travis Filleau



Title: Tacoma Power's path on Ambient Adjusted Ratings & FERC 881 compliance

Abstract: FERC Order 881 mandates that all jurisdictional transmission providers implement ambient-adjusted ratings for their transmission lines in order to enhance transmission system efficiency and transparency. Ambient-adjusted ratings are to be used for real-time operations as well as market applications with the use of look-ahead forecasted ratings. The parameters for the ambient-adjusted ratings include accounting for day/night solar heating changes, ratings for every 5° Fahrenheit change and ratings that range from historical highs/lows with a +/- margin of 10° Fahrenheit. This presentation details Tacoma Power's transmission line rating transition from seasonal to ambient-adjusted to a fully FERC Order 881-compliant implementation. The session highlights Tacoma Power's

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current implementation practices, highlight the gaps identified between the current and FERC 881 requirements, challenges that emerged, and the changes needed to close those gaps.

Bio: Travis Filleau has been a Transmission & Distribution System Planning Engineer at Tacoma Power for over 3 years and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Washington. As a System Planning engineer, he is tasked with ensuring the reliability and performance of the power system, ranging from the next day to 20 years in the future. Prior to his current role, Travis spent 2 years as a new services engineer with Tacoma Power in which he designed distribution system additions and modifications for new customer connections. He also spent 2 years with a consultant firm as a Substation Design Engineer, specializing in high-voltage relay replacements. Travis earned his BS in Electrical Engineering from Washington State University.

