

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 33**

---

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Bradford**

March 20, 2012

---

---

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 33—Relative to electrical grid reliability.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 33, as introduced, Bradford. Southwest Power Outage.

This measure would request the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to include in its investigation of the Southwest Power Outage an inquiry as to whether the balancing authorities were in compliance with rules that require a balancing authority to be able to maintain reliability in the event that one part of the system fails, to provide information to the Legislature on the status of its investigation into the Southwest Power Outage, and to provide oversight to the North American Electric Reliability Council and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council in a manner that ensures that balancing authorities are prepared for unplanned outages in the event that they are relying on electricity from or through another balancing authority.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California relies on the rules and orders established
- 2 by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to maintain a safe
- 3 and reliable electrical grid; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The North American Electric Reliability Council
- 5 is the electric reliability organization certified by the Federal
- 6 Energy Regulatory Commission to establish and enforce reliability
- 7 standards for the bulk-power system; and

1 WHEREAS, The North American Electric Reliability Council  
2 has delegated responsibility for the reliability of the electrical grid  
3 to the Western Electricity Coordinating Council; and

4 WHEREAS, The Western Electricity Coordinating Council is  
5 the regional entity responsible for coordinating and promoting  
6 bulk power system reliability in the Western Interconnection; and

7 WHEREAS, The reliability of the bulk power system is based  
8 on coordination between and among balancing authorities that  
9 provide and maintain, ahead of time, load-interchange-generation  
10 balance within the area of the balancing authority and supports  
11 interconnection frequency in real time; and

12 WHEREAS, The reliability of the bulk power system in the  
13 Pacific southwest region relies on no fewer than five balancing  
14 authorities located in California, Arizona, Colorado, and Mexico;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In September 2011 the Pacific southwest region  
17 suffered a sustained and major loss of electrical reliability; and

18 WHEREAS, The bulk power system across several balancing  
19 authorities failed to provide reliable electricity supplies to the  
20 customers of San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Imperial  
21 Irrigation District, and Southern California Edison Company,  
22 resulting in a major power outage that led to the release of three  
23 million gallons of raw sewage into San Diego Bay leading to the  
24 Pacific Ocean; and

25 WHEREAS, The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has  
26 not provided information to the California Legislature regarding  
27 its investigation, the cause of the outage, or a timeline for when  
28 the investigation will be complete; now, therefore, be it

29 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
30 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of California requests that  
31 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission include in its  
32 investigation of the Southwest Power Outage an inquiry as to  
33 whether the balancing authorities were in compliance with rules  
34 that require a balancing authority to be able to maintain reliability  
35 in the event that one part of the system fails, such as a transmission  
36 line or a generation facility; and be it further

37 *Resolved,* That the Legislature requests that the Federal Energy  
38 Regulatory Commission provide information on the status and  
39 timeline of its investigation and periodic updates on the  
40 investigation into the Southwest Power Outage to the Assembly

1 Committee on Utilities and Commerce and the Senate Committee  
2 on Energy, Utilities and Communications; and be it further  
3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the Federal Energy  
4 Regulatory Commission to provide oversight to the North  
5 American Electric Reliability Council and the Western Electricity  
6 Coordinating Council in a manner that ensures that the balancing  
7 authorities are prepared for unplanned outages in the event that  
8 they are relying on electricity from or through another balancing  
9 authority; and be it further  
10 *Resolved*, The Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of  
11 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O