

MRO Releases 2021 Regional Winter Assessment

December 1, 2021

Saint Paul, MN. Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) is pleased to announce the release of its 2021 Regional Winter Assessment ([2021 RWA](#)). The 2021 RWA reflects MRO's independent assessment of the upcoming winter season to identify challenges and potential reliability risks to the reliable and secure operations of the bulk power system within MRO's regional footprint. This assessment provides an evaluation of resources and transmission system adequacy necessary to meet projected winter peak demands in December 2021 through February 2022, as well as reviews historical data to provide information on regional bulk power system performance and identify trends most impactful to system reliability during the winter months.

MRO's 2021 RWA compliments [NERC's 2021 Winter Reliability Assessment](#), which provides an evaluation of resource and transmission system adequacy necessary to meet projected winter peak demands across all of North America. MRO's 2021 RWA focuses on the bulk power system in MRO's regional footprint, and further evaluates historical performance to identify reliability concerns and trends that might impact resource and transmission system adequacy for the upcoming winter season. MRO's seasonal assessments provide valuable input to [MRO's Regional Risk Assessment](#) that is conducted each year in the fourth quarter.

The 2021 RWA finds that although anticipated resources are sufficient to meet normal winter demand, extreme winter peak loads coupled with planned and unplanned generation outages, could result in energy shortfalls across the MRO region. Additionally, historical trends indicate that generation availability, particularly combined cycle gas and simple cycle gas plants, is most challenging during winter months and should remain an area of focus. The report recommends that generator owners identify and protect cold weather critical components, and Balancing Authorities protect critical natural gas infrastructure from manual and automatic load shedding in order to avoid adversely affecting bulk electric system (BES¹) reliability. The electric power industry must address how to provide adequate capacity and energy to consumers during times of extreme cold weather and assure power plants are winterized properly. Continued monitoring of renewable generation during extreme cold weather is also critical to maintaining reliability of the regional bulk power system during the 2021 winter season.

MRO will host a webinar on the 2021 RWA key findings on January 26, 2021. You can register for this event [here](#).

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Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the reliability and security of the bulk power system in the central region of North America, including parts of both the United States and Canada. MRO is one of six regional entities in North America operating under authority from regulators in the United

¹ All Transmission Elements operated at 100 kV or higher and Real Power and Reactive Power resources connected at 100 kV or higher.

States through a delegation agreement with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and in Canada under similar arrangements. The primary focus of MRO is developing and ensuring compliance with reliability standards and assessing the grid's ability to meet the demands for electricity.