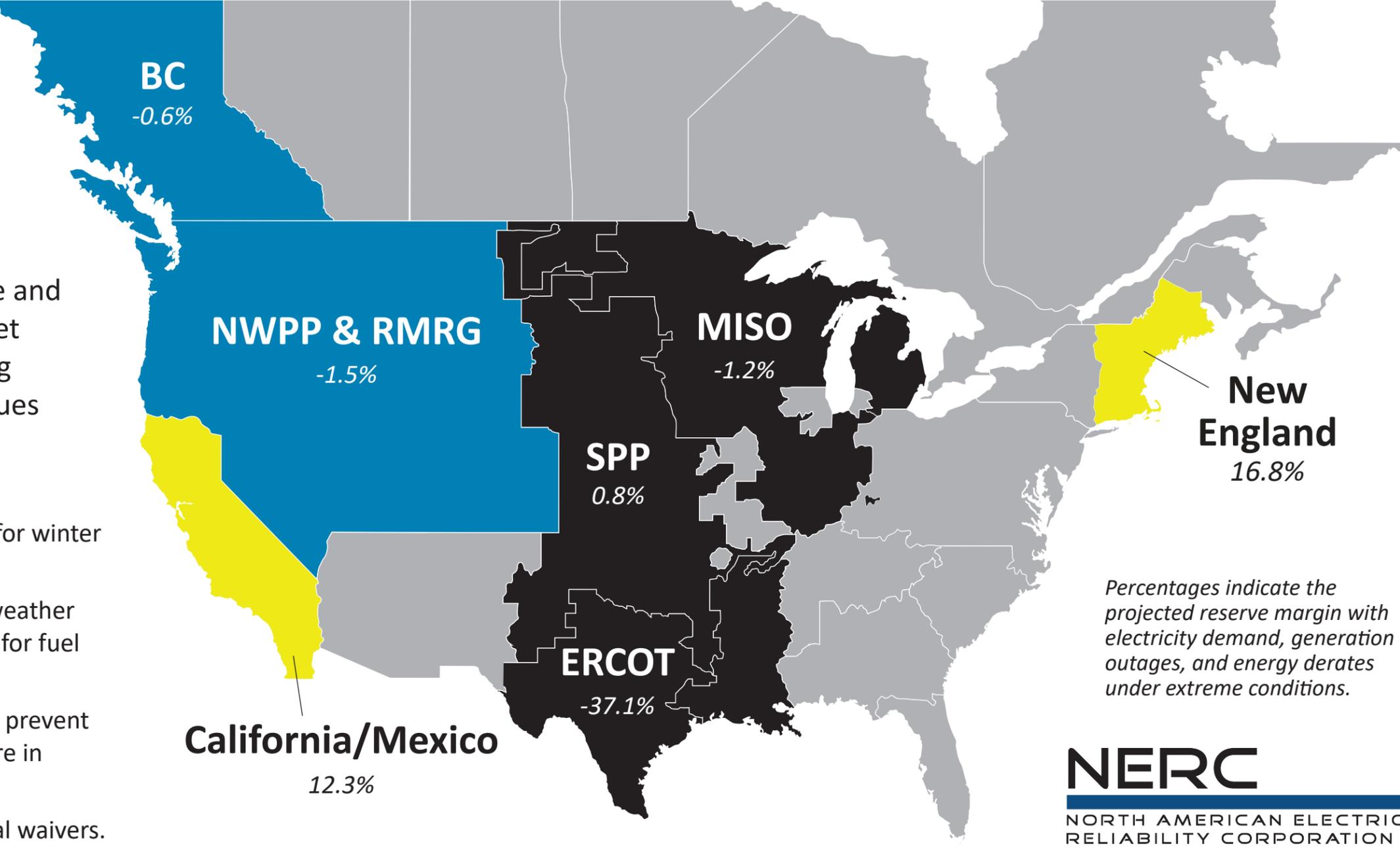


2021–2022 Winter Reliability Assessment

NERC’s annual Winter Reliability Assessment provides an evaluation of generation resource and transmission system adequacy needed to meet projected winter peak demands and operating reserves and identifies potential reliability issues for the 2021–2022 winter period.

Key Actions

- Generators should take proactive steps to prepare for winter conditions and communicate with grid operators.
- Grid operators should prepare to implement cold weather operating plans, conduct drills, and poll generators for fuel and availability status.
- Load-serving entities should review critical loads to prevent inadvertent disruptions and ensure alert systems are in place to prepare their customers.
- Regulators should support requested environmental waivers.



Extreme Weather Risk

Winter weather conditions that exceed projections could expose power system generation and fuel delivery infrastructure vulnerabilities. Increased demand caused by frigid temperatures, coupled with higher than anticipated generator forced outages and derates, could result in energy deficiencies that require system operators to take emergency operating actions, up to and including firm load shedding.

Energy Infrastructure Risk

Natural gas supply disruptions in areas with infrastructure areas have the potential to affect winter reliability. Although New England and California have sufficient planning reserves, fuel supplies to generators in those areas can be vulnerable during cold weather conditions.

Low Hydro Conditions Risk

Continuing drought in the West has caused low hydro conditions and could reduce the supply of electricity available for transfer.