

**Transmission Line Siting Workshop
Embassy Suites, Downtown Denver**

Draft Agenda

April 17th

8:00 – 8:15 am **Introductions/Agenda Review**

8:15 – 8:45 am **State Siting Practices**

- WGA consultants, Larry Chaset and Susan Lee, will provide an overview of research into state siting practices based on their work to date.

8:45 – 10:15 am **State Siting Roundtable**

- Roundtable discussion among the states on their respective practices. Discussion to highlight key structural questions such as:
 - What is the role of the state PUC/PSC in approving transmission projects?
 - Is the PUC/PSC role preemptive?
 - If not, is there a separate state-level siting/permitting agency?
 - Are there state siting laws/regulations?
 - Are permits issued at the local level?
 - When permits are issued locally, is there state-level backstop authority?
 - Is there a central contact at the state level for addressing siting questions/concerns?
 - What are the strengths/weaknesses of state siting practices?
 - How does coordination with the federal agencies work in different states?
 - How are resource-specific permits (*e.g.*, permits issued under the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act) handled in different states?

10:15 – 10:30 **Break**

10:30 – 12:00 **Briefing Paper Reviews and Recommendation Outcomes**

- The WGA siting consultants will highlight common issues unearthed while compiling briefing papers and in discussions at RRTT meetings.
- Presentation of consultants' draft recommendations to streamline the siting and permitting process.
- State roundtable discussion to prioritize, modify and revise recommendations.

- Develop action items for governors and states in order to move recommendations forward.

12:00 – 1:15

Lunch

1:15 – 2:30

Efforts to Strengthen the State/Federal Processes and Coordination

- MOUs between states and federal agencies (modeled after California examples) – pros and cons of this option
- Review contents of a draft Model MOU
- State siting facilitation: would it be beneficial to the states for WGA to hire a facilitator to manage projects across jurisdictions and/or within the states?
- Discuss value to states of potential additional consultant “products:”
 - Transmission Siting Handbook
 - Model MOU for state/federal cooperation
 - Sage Grouse protocol applicable to all states
 - National Historic Preservation Act Section 106/Programmatic Agreement template
 - Guidance on Endangered Species Act Section 7 and Clean Water Act Section 404
 - Developing efficient processes for addressing potentially controversial issues, such as the selection of alternative routes, bio/cultural surveys, public outreach, etc.

2:30 – 2:45

Break

2:45 – 3:30

Next Steps

1. Identify states seeking MOU/facilitation
2. Do we need sub-groups to tackle some of the recommendations? If so, who will be on those subcommittees?
3. Timing for moving forward.
4. Further workshops to tackle specific topics (Sage Grouse, appeals process, cost recovery for the states, etc.)

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Rapid Response Transmission Team Update