



WESTERN
GOVERNORS'
ASSOCIATION



September 30, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave, SW, Forrestal Bldg.
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

The Western Governors' Association (WGA) and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) are honored that you chose the occasion of the WGA's annual meeting to announce the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) "Recovery Act – Resource Assessment and Interconnection-Level Transmission Analysis and Planning." Both WGA and WECC are pleased to advise you that we have submitted coordinated proposals to the DE-FOA-0000068 (WECC for Topic A and the WGA for Topic B) for the Western Interconnection. The proposals integrate the important roles of states and Canadian provinces, the electric power industry, non-governmental organizations and other regional stakeholders in shaping the future of the Western Interconnection.

The coordinated WGA and WECC proposals will not only evaluate transmission needs of the West but also assess impacts on critical natural resources, such as water and wildlife. Successful execution of tasks outlined in the proposals will provide decision makers at all levels with the information necessary to assure future electric system reliability at reasonable cost while achieving emissions reduction goals, managing natural resource limitations and minimizing environmental impacts.

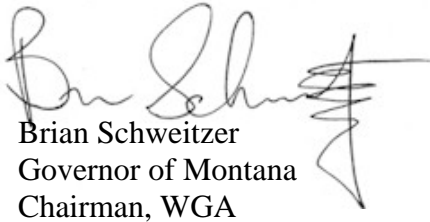
We want to emphasize the very responsive and specific nature of the applications. The Western Interconnection was given a number of additional tasks under Topic B. We have taken care to lay out the activities and budgets necessary to complete the listed tasks under Topics A and B. The requested funding is necessary to execute the tasks DOE prescribed in the FOA. We agree that completion of these tasks is critical to the long-range planning efforts of the Western Interconnection. It is important for DOE to give the funding of the required tasks in the FOA the highest consideration.

Western Governors also appreciate the DOE's flexibility in making the requested funding available to all members of the Western Governors' Wildlife Council for pilot studies to help develop decision support systems. The Memorandum of Understanding between WGA and the federal agencies, including the DOE, signed in June in Park City was a commitment on behalf of the entire WGA membership, including eight states not within the Western Interconnection.


Every Western Governor is equally committed to developing systems that can be used to support critical siting decisions for electrical generation and transmission facilities.

The WGA and WECC are committed to coordinating the execution of our programs for Topics A and B and to fully satisfying the requirements outlined in the FOA. We will meet regularly prior to commencement of activities under Topics A and B to coordinate our responsibilities and programs. Both parties have every confidence that the close coordination and cooperation in executing the programs in the proposals will achieve the benefits envisioned in the FOA for the Western Interconnection.

Sincerely,



Brian Schweitzer
Governor of Montana
Chairman, WGA



C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho
Vice Chairman, WGA



Louise McCarren
CEO, WECC