



**Western Governors' Association
Siting Task Force
Webinar**

Monday, March 18, 2013 12:30 – 2:30pm MDT

The webinar focused on the following topics:

1. General updates by WGA
2. Task Force input for the CEQ meeting.
3. Task Force products
4. Siting Task Force Methodology

GENERAL UPDATES BY WGA

Linda Davis, WGA, shared siting and RRTT (conveyed by CEQ) meeting updates with the Task Force. Tetra Tech has been hired as a technical consultant to the Task Force, and Kearns & West has been hired as the Task Force Facilitation Team. Ms. Davis' complete presentation

TASK FORCE INPUT FOR THE CEQ MEETING [Presentation]

Ms. Davis noted how the plans for the RRTT/CEQ meeting have changed. The meeting is now a one-day meeting on April 16. All Task Force members are invited, but must register. Loyd Drain and Todd Cornett will serve as panelists. The RRTT is not requesting formal written statements in advance of the meeting. CEQ sent out two Discussion Guides to assist panelist in preparing for the meeting.

Staff (Tetra Tech, Kearns & West, and WGA) will develop two Task Force documents in preparation for the RRTT/CEQ meeting: 1) Talking points for Mr. Cornett and Mr. Drain to use as panelists, and 2) a summary document to submit to the RRTT after the meeting. Task Force members may provide individual comments, in addition to those collaboratively prepared. Task Force documents will be drawn from interviews, surveys, and webinars with Task Force members. All Task Force members will have an opportunity to comment upon and review the Task Force documents before they are finalized.

Ms. Davis presented possible talking points in response to specific questions framed by the RRTT. Task Force members refined these talking points. Below is a brief summary of these discussions.

CEQ, on behalf of the RRTT, requested input on the concept of developing a Toolkit for developers and other stakeholders to use in going through the siting process. The Toolkit will include links to the relevant state offices and examples of MOUs that agencies can use. During the discussion, Task Force members provided feedback on the Toolkit including:

- **Environmental and Cultural:** One Task Force member suggested adding Environmental and Cultural information to the Toolkit. Another Task Force member suggested including

existing resources that are being used for environmental and cultural screening for transmission alternatives.

- **Federal Rules:** One Task Force member suggested incorporating key federal rules as part of the Toolkit.
- **Transmission Planning and Development Examples:** One Task Force member suggested incorporating a model transmission planning and development example that illustrates a cost-effective and efficient approach.

Ms. Davis presented the RRTT's discussion questions on the Integrated Interagency Pre-Application Process (IIP). CEQ, in conjunction with the RRTT, is pulling together resources that will help clarify the process and ensure transparency including standardized requirements and checklists, mitigation examples, public outreach, and best practices. During the discussion, Task Force members provided feedback on the IIP including:

- **Likely Conflicts:** One Task Force member suggested including scenarios that have been known to cause siting challenges.
- **Stakeholder Input:** Several Task Force members suggested emphasizing early and broad stakeholder input in the IIP. One Task Force member added that visual representatives (maps) help stakeholders provide input.
- **Infrastructure Teams** – One Task Force member suggested creating infrastructure teams that work together and can be based on the California model of cooperation.
- **Federal and State Permitting Process Synergies:** One Task Force member suggested developing a flowchart that outlines the federal and state permitting processes concurrently. This flowchart could help applicants manage both processes concurrently and identify where the processes conflict.

Ms. Davis presented RRTT's discussion questions focusing on State, Local, and Tribal coordination. The RRTT is considering how to coordinate with all levels of government. During the discussion, Task Force members provided feedback on coordination including:

- **Regional Teams:** One Task Force member supported the regional team concept, including State representatives that facilitate a coordinated approach.
- **MOUs:** Several Task Force members supported including successful MOUs as references. One Task Force member suggested reviewing an MOU between Nevada BLM and the Governor's Energy Office as a reference.
- **State Associations of Counties:** One Task Force member suggested that the State Associations of Counties could help coordinate locally or provide a framework to engage counties.
- **Transmission Planning – A Task Force member suggested that creating a better transmission plan and incorporating that effort into the siting effort can facilitate a discussion on regional needs versus local needs and potentially create more 'buy-in'.**

In concluding this section, Ms. Davis noted that the WGA Task Force is working on developing many of the same tools noted in the RRTT questions, such as a toolkit of useful documents. Staff for the WGA Task Force are developing these products such that they can be directly inserted into the federal framework or as stand alone products if the federal agencies are not able to move forward quickly. Task Force staff are conferring with federal agency staff to ensure the products are compatible and not duplicative.

TASK FORCE PRODUCTS [\[Presentation\]](#)

Lori Davidson, Tetra Tech, presented an update on Tetra Tech's progress including project goals, status updates, and next steps. The complete presentation is available for download at [here](#).

During the presentation and discussion, Task Force members provided feedback including:

- **Agency Coordination:** In response to a question from a Task Force member, a Tetra Tech representative suggested that the RRTT/ CEQ meeting may be an opportunity to raise issues about coordinating between State, Local, Federal, and Tribal agencies.
- **Comprehensive Online Tool:** In response to a question from a Task Force member, a Tetra Tech representative shared that the comprehensive online tool will incorporate regulatory issues from the eleven Western Interconnect states. Ideally, these regulations will be incorporated into a federal process tool. **Long Term Web Presence:** One Task Force member emphasized that there should be a plan for long-term maintenance of the website to ensure the resource's durability. She added that having the website as a WGA resource could help ensure that the information is available for a long time. A WGA representative added that the Task Force would seek to coordinate the Tetra Tech web tools with any tools that the federal agencies are developing.

SITING TASK FORCE METHODOGY [\[Presentation\]](#)

Kristi Parker Celico, K&W, presented two ideas to assist in managing the Task Force. The complete presentation is available for download at [here](#).

The Task Force agreed that staff will develop proposed Operating Principles to share with the Planning Committee for review. The draft Operating Principles will be shared with the Task Force in advance of the April 30 – May 1 in-person meeting. Task Force members will have an opportunity to discuss and finalize the Operating Principles during the meeting.

Further, the Task Force agreed that the following individuals will serve on a Planning Committee for the Task Force: Rod Fisher, Todd Cornett, Carl Zichella, Tom Stoops, and Linda Davis. After the call, John Lupo and Jack Haenichen volunteered to assist also. The Planning Committee will review process documents and agendas for the full Task Force.

Wrap up and Next Steps

Staff will refine the talking points for the RRTT/CEQ meeting using input provided by Task Force members during the webinar, in addition to gathering additional input through interviews and another webinar, if necessary. The project team will also work with panelists to develop PowerPoint presentations as needed.

The next in-person meeting of the Task Force will be April 30 – May 1, 2013 in Salt Lake City. Staff will distribute logistics information in advance of the meeting.

I. Participation

- Mark Anderson, Washington
- Jeffrey Barrett, Utah Office of Energy Development
- Paul Caldera, CO PUC
- John Chatburn, Idaho Governor's Office of Energy Resources

- Todd Cornett, ODOE
- Stacey Crowley, NV Office of Energy
- Lori Davidson, Tetra Tech
- Linda Davis, WGA
- Doug Dockter, Idaho Power Company
- Loyd Drain, Wyoming Infrastructure Authority
- Pam Eaton, The Wilderness Society
- Rod Fisher, PacifiCorp / Rocky Mountain Power
- Gary Graham, WRA
- Jack Haenichen, AZ Governor's Office of Energy Policy
- Joel Henderson, CO PUC
- Tom Kaiserski, MT
- Shannon Kelly, Office of Energy Resources, Idaho
- Chris Larson, DOE
- Rich Lindsey, CSG-West
- John Lupo, Xcel Energy
- Larry Mansueti, DOE
- Kristi Parker Celico, K&W
- Julie Smith, DOE
- Tom Stoops, Tetra Tech
- Janet Thomson, K&W
- Rebecca Wagner, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
- Christopher Worley, Colorado Energy Office
- Al Wright, Washington
- Carl Zichella, NRDC