

Agenda

Western Interconnection Resource Planning Forum

February 24-25, 2009

Horton Grand Hotel

San Diego

Noon **Registration**

1:00 p.m. **Welcome and key purposes of the meeting**

- Mike Niggli, COO, Sempra Energy Utilities
- Steve Ellenbecker, Western Governors' Association Staff
Council Executive Committee

Challenges facing the Western Interconnection: How can we meet future regional electricity demand in a reliable and affordable manner while curbing carbon emissions and developing and integrating large amounts of renewable resources?

The objectives for the meeting are to:

1. Identify the major challenges facing resource planners and utilities in meeting future electricity demand.
2. Identify actions that can be taken to address those challenges, including collaborative actions among LSEs and PUCs.
3. Provide feedback on the Western Renewable Energy Zone project preferred renewable energy zones and actions that would enable significant development of generation in preferred zones, such as coordinated procurement to enhance the building of power lines.

1:30 p.m. [Session 1: **Overview of Challenges Facing Utilities and Resource Planners**](#)

Panelists

Brad Albert, Arizona Public Service
David Mills, Puget Sound Energy
Lisa Schwartz, Oregon PUC staff
Tom Fair, NV Energy
David Clement, Seattle City Light
Rob Anderson, San Diego Gas & Electric
Evelin Wheeler, PNM
Kurt Haeger, Xcel

Facilitated discussion with participants

Question for the panel and follow-up discussion

- What do you see as the major challenges in resource acquisition decisions?
- What are the challenges utilities will face to meet stringent carbon standards and renewable resource targets?

- How can utilities address these challenges individually or jointly? What can commissions do to address these challenges?
- What are the opportunities for collaboration?
- What are the costs and consequences of inconsistent laws and rules and how should they be changed?
- What are the impacts of a federal RPS?

3:00 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. [Session 2](#): **Specific Challenges facing Utilities and Planners**

2.1 How do resource planners consider the risks and costs of future carbon regulation in resource planning and acquisition decisions? What are the implications of different carbon regulation schemes? What is the interplay between diverse RPSs and meeting carbon emission limits? (45 minutes)

Teeing up the issue – Doug Larson (WIEB)

Overview of utility approaches – Galen Barbose, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Resource planner views on carbon risk and cost

- John Owens, NV Energy
- Greg Duvall, PacifiCorp
- Jim Lobdell, PGE

Facilitated discussion with participants on carbon risks and costs

2.2 How is the cost of integrating significant amounts of wind and solar evaluated? How can these costs be reduced? What should be assumed about unbundled and bundled RECs and what role should they play? (75 minutes)

Teeing up the issue – Doug Larson (WIEB)

Overview of utility-specific integration costs – Lynn Coles, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Challenges and ways to lower costs

- Antonio Alvarez, PG&E
- Kurt Haeger, Xcel
- John Leland, Northwestern Energy
- Mary Johannis, BPA
- Bob Strauss, California PUC
- Kristi Wallis, Columbia Grid (*Joint Initiatives of NTTG, Columbia Grid, WestConnect*)

Facilitated discussion with participants on other challenges and solutions

2.3 How should prospective transmission be considered in planning and resource acquisition decisions? (45 minutes)

- Teeing up the issue – Doug Larson (WIEB)
- Ideas:
 - Consideration of transmission in resource plans
 - Randy Lobb, Idaho PUC
 - Greg Duvall, Pacificorp
 - Timing utility RFPs to mesh with transmission development schedules
 - Wyoming-Colorado Intertie - Jerry Vaninetti, Trans-Elect

6:00 p.m. Recess for the day

6:15 – 7:15 p.m. Reception

Wednesday, February 25

7:00 a.m. Continental breakfast

8:00 a.m. [Session 3:](#) **Western Renewable Energy Zones (WREZ)**

3.1 Overview of WGA Western Renewable Energy Zones project and link between resource choices and transmission expansion

- WREZ origin, goals, process, status, and what is being asked of utilities and PUCs
 - John Savage, WREZ Technical Committee co-chair (OR PUC)
- Overview of Qualified Resource Areas and future Renewable Energy Zones: What resources? What criteria? What areas?
 - Linda Davis, WGA

3.2 Overview of the WREZ model on delivered cost of electricity from REZs

- Paul Smith (APS), WREZ Generation & Transmission Modeling Work Group Co-Chair
- Tim Mason, Black & Veatch

3.3 Feedback on strawman scenario of lowest delivered cost from Qualified Resource Areas and future REZs to each load area and alternative utility preferences

- Black & Veatch presentation of strawman scenarios
- Facilitated discussion with participants

10:00 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. **3.4 How do utility renewable needs and REZs fit with transmission planning and major proposed transmission projects?**

- Transmission planning

- WECC 2008 transmission expansion study results and 2009 requests for WECC studies
 - Brad Nickell, Western Electricity Coordinating Council
- Facilitated discussion among participants
 - Does current transmission planning meet utility resource needs?
 - How can transmission planning better reflect resource preferences?
- Proposed major projects (stated size, location and timing of project) and utility needs
 - Overview of proposed projects
 - Tom Schneider, WECC
- Facilitated discussion with participants
 - Are these projects accessing generation of interest to LSEs?
 - Can LSEs count on these projects being in place when resources are needed?
 - Do LSEs need an ownership in the project?
 - Why do LSEs choose to participate or not participate in transmission project “open seasons”?

11:45 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. **3.5 How do we maximize the development of cost-effective resources in preferred REZs?**

Panel of resource planners and transmission developers

- Doug Larson, WIEB
- Resource planners
 - Paul Smith, APS
 - Evelin Wheeler, PNM
- Mary Johannis, BPA
- Tom Schneider, WECC

Facilitated discussion with participants

- Is the business-as-usual individual LSE procurement process adequate to maximize the development of cost-effective resources in preferred REZs?
- If not, what actions are needed, e.g., coordinated procurement or generation within REZs, transmission open season solicitations, long-term “right sizing” of transmission to REZs? What are the obstacles to taking such actions?

2:00 p.m. **Where do we go from here?**

Presentation of solutions and next steps raised during the meeting

- John Savage, OR PUC

Vision of western electric industry leaders on next steps

- Pat Vincent-Collawn, CEO, Public Service Company of New Mexico

3:00 p.m. Adjourn