

Western Renewable Energy Zones Project
Steering Committee Meeting
May 28, 2008 – Salt Lake City, Utah

Meeting Summary

On May 28 the Western Governors' Association, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy, launched the Western Renewable Energy Zones project in Salt Lake City, Utah. Utah Governor and incoming WGA Chairman Jon M. Huntsman Jr. and Kevin Kolevar, DOE's Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, addressed the Steering Committee and more than 150 stakeholders and observers.

"Unprecedented challenges face the West in meeting the growing demand for electricity, while achieving local and global environmental goals," Gov. Huntsman said in the meeting's keynote address. "The WREZ project will help us tap our vast renewable resources and develop transmission that considers communities, environmental impacts and costs." Prior to the meeting, Gov. Dave Freudenthal, WGA Chairman, stated that at the end of the project, "we should have improved data and other information to help our region make decisions on where to build transmission lines."

"The importance of this initiative is two-fold; not only does it highlight the areas in the West that are able to provide clean, reliable, and abundant sources of energy, it also stresses the importance of regional electricity planning to prevent the balkanization of new renewable sources and develop the infrastructure necessary to carry this power to consumers," Assistant Secretary Kolevar added.

Additional welcoming remarks were made by Dianne R. Nielson of Governor Huntsman's office, who also moderated the meeting, and Steve Ellenbecker, Energy Advisor for Governor Freudenthal, spoke on behalf of the Governor who could not attend because of a prior engagement. Ms. Nielson spoke to the staggering potential for renewable energy development in the West, and how the WREZ project will work to move development and planning beyond state lines. Mr. Ellenbecker said the project will compliment other work WGA is doing with clean energy, and stressed how its success is dependant upon the involvement of the stakeholders.

Project History

Doug Larson, Executive Director for the Western Interstate Energy Board, provided a brief historical background of the WREZ project and regional transmission planning efforts. He referenced the unprecedented number of proposals for transmission lines that are currently under review and, although not all will be built, how it is essential for policymakers to have access to high-quality information on transmission needs in reviewing proposals¹.

Stakeholder Statements

Meeting participants heard from four speakers representing some of the key stakeholder groups in this process. Each of the stakeholders addressed the timeliness of the WREZ project from the perspective of their organizations. Karl Gawell, Geothermal Energy Association, spoke about the need for transmission to allow renewable energy projects to move forward. Richard Walje, Rocky Mountain Power, called on the WREZ Steering Committee to communicate to the public the need for energy transmission and to help identify ways to streamline the transmission siting process. Carl Zichella, Sierra Club, stressed the need to move away from fossil fuels and encourage renewable energy by developing partnerships early on in stakeholder processes, such as the WREZ. Finally, Rainer Aringhoff, Solar Millennium LLC, spoke on the expansion of solar projects in the West and the need for solar to be considered as states and the federal government begin considering transmission upgrades.

Western Renewable Resource Landscape

Dan Arvisu, Director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, spoke on the current resource base in the Western Interconnection (WI) and presented resource assessment maps for wind, concentrating solar, solar PV, and geothermal. Mr. Arvizu concluded that resource potential is not holding back development of renewables in the U.S.; rather the relevant factors for moving forward are motivation and will.

The motivation and will of states to develop renewables are somewhat reflected in state Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS). Galen Barbose, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, provided an overview of the design, early experience, and impacts of RPS' in the United States and discussed Federal RPS developments and state-level non-binding renewable energy goals. Mr. Barbose concluded that the popularity of state-level RPS policies has grown throughout the West, however the design of these policies vary with potential implications for transmission expansion needs.

WREZ Project Overview

Rich Halvey, WREZ Project Manager, presented details on how the WREZ project is intending to add value for decisions-makers like transmission providers, generation developers and state planners, and how the stakeholder project is being structured. Information is essential to developing transmission because renewable energy developers what to know where they can site their facilities to ensure access to the transmission system and minimize environmental impacts. Outside of the CA ISO there is no mechanism in the WI to force unwilling parties to pay for new transmission. The regional perspective that WREZ offers is particularly important for development of renewables that are distant from load centers. The WREZ also paves the way for interstate collaboration on:

- permitting of multi-state transmission;
- allocating and recovering cost of new transmission; and
- providing an informational foundation for new approaches to interconnection and transmission service queuing problems.

The WREZ is organized to be governed by a Steering Committee comprising Governors, PUC commissioners and Canadian Premiers from the Western Interconnection; the

Governor of Baja California, Mexico; and representatives from the U.S. DOE and FERC, who will serve as ex-officio members. The Steering Committee will advise a Technical Committee, which will determine the work process necessary to complete each phase of the project. The Technical Committee will form work groups as necessary to prepare work products for the committee's review. Both the Technical Committee and work groups will rely on technical expertise from the National Renewable Energy Lab and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, with staff support from WGA. At this time, work groups have been identified for phase I to:

- assess environment, land use and permitting issues, as well as renewable resource criteria, related to identifying a REZ;
- create supply curves for areas under consideration as a REZ; and
- guide the development of a model that load-serving entities, regulators, policy makers and others can use to evaluate the delivered price of power from REZs.

The Work Groups will coordinate their efforts as necessary, especially in their initial efforts to develop criteria for areas that may become REZs.

WGA hopes to have proposed REZs by the end of September to make available for public comment. The timeline for Phase I is scheduled to conclude in late December, when the Technical Committee will proposed REZs to the Steering Committee for reviewⁱⁱ.

Steering Committee Action

The Steering Committee took up two items of business: reviewing and approving the project charter and approving initial membership of the Technical Committee. After a brief discussion of how the WREZ project will dovetail with WGA's Wildlife Corridors project, members approved the charter with minor typographical edits.

Members then discussed Technical Committee membership and observed that membership on the Committee is, according to the charter, flexible based on required representation and potential job changes. The Technical Committee roster was approved unanimously. Steering Committee members can nominate additional members to the Technical Committee by contacting Rich Halvey.

State REZ Efforts

Representatives from Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico provided brief presentations on the efforts their states have undergone or are currently pursuing to identify state-wide REZs.

Nevada representative Hatice Gecol explained that in Nevada's effort permitting was their number one issue to address, lack of transmission running north to south in the state was also challenging, as were the need for market incentives. Additional information is available at: <http://gov.state.nv.us>.

In Colorado, Morey Wolfson described the 16-member task force that was formed after Colorado voters passed Amendment 37 calling for an RPS of 10 percent renewables by 2020. Governor Ritter has since doubled the RPS to 20 percent by 2020, and that level

may continue to rise. Additional information can be found at:

http://www.colorado.gov/energy/in/uploaded_pdf/ConnectingColoradoResources.pdf.

New Mexico, second only to Arizona in solar energy potential, has been working for some time to identify zones in connection with its RPS. Joanna Prukop explained how New Mexico is only one of two states with a production tax credit incentivising biomass, wind, solar and geothermal. Draft maps for the state process and more information is available at: <http://www.nmreta.org/>.

According to PUC Commissioner Dian Grueneich, California has three items driving renewable energy development in the state; a RPS requiring 20 percent by 2010; an executive order calling for achieving renewable goals by 2020; and a global warming law which requires a scoping plan be developed by the end of the year detailing how California will address global warming. The Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) process in California should mesh well with WREZ. More information is available at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/index.html>.

Jessica Youle said Arizona has done assessments on renewable resource potential, and solar is the biggest source Governor Napolitano is focusing on. The state has an RPS of 15 percent on investor-owned utilities and co-ops and the energy omnibus bill pending in the state legislature would create an RPS for municipalities and public utilities. More information is available at:

http://www.bv.com/resources/energy_bochuresrenewables/rsrc_AZ_Renewable_Energy_Assessment.pdf.

It is the intention of the WREZ project to utilize both data and process lessons from these state studies to its greatest ability.

Committee Q&A

Steering Committee members spent some time discussing general issues related to the WREZ project. In particular, Montana Public Service Commissioner Greg Jergeson commented that there needs to be a focus on energy storage technologies and that more efficient pumped hydro and high-tech storage technologies, among others, need to be moved to the forefront in Work Group discussions.

Public Comment

There was an opportunity for members of the public to comment on the WREZ process and other issues that had been presented. Comments were largely positive in how WREZ is moving forward, and many individuals submitted issues for the group to consider as the project progresses. These suggestions included:

- Making sure NREL and DOE include in their maps recent updates to the geothermal resource base;
- Encouraging the utilization of high voltage transmission to focus on reliability of energy;
- Including conservationists on all committees;

- Understanding the need to remove barriers to cross-border transmission planning;
- Exploring the availability of smart-grid technology;
- Giving attention to distributed generation, which would reduce the need for transmission; and
- Reaching out to all levels of stakeholders during the entire process.

Adjournment

Dianne Nielsen concluded the meeting by thanking Steering Committee members and presenters for their participation. She reminded the group of the Technical Committee Meeting scheduled for the following day and highlighted the significant funding and technical support DOE is contributing to the WREZ project. A summary from that meeting is also available through www.westgov.org.

AGENDA
Western Renewable Energy Zones Project
Kickoff Meeting
May 28, 2008

Sheraton Hotel
150 West 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 534-3479

- 1:00 p.m. Convene Meeting – Welcome and opening statement by Utah Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., WGA Vice-chairman
- Introduce the Steering Committee
- 1:10 p.m. Opening Remarks --Assistant Secretary Kevin Kolevar, U.S. Department of Energy
- 1:20 p.m. Opening Statement -- Steve Ellenbecker Energy Advisor for Wyoming Gov. Dave Freudenthal, WGA chairman
- 1:30 p.m. WREZ Project History and Regional Transmission Planning Efforts – Doug Larson, WIEB Executive Director
- 1:45 p.m. Remarks from other governors and Commissioners representing Western Public Utility Commissions and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- 2:00 p.m. Statements from key stakeholders
- Karl Gawell, Geothermal Energy Association
 - Richard Walje, Rocky Mountain Power
 - Carl Zichella, Sierra Club
- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:50 p.m. Western renewable resource landscape
- The resource base and trends in renewable generation – Dan Arvizu, Director, National Renewable Energy Lab
 - Renewable Portfolio Standards in the United States: A Status Report with Data through 2007 – Galen Barbose, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- 3:15 p.m. Presentation on the details of the project, questions and instructions on how to sign-up for work groups -- Rich Halvey, WGA Project Manager for WREZ Project

ATTACHMENT A

- 3:30 p.m. Formal action by the Steering Committee
- Approve the charter
 - Approve initial membership and leadership of the Technical Committee
- 4:00 p.m. State REZ efforts
- Hatice Gecol (NV), Energy and Science Advisor to Governor Gibbons and Director State Office of Energy
 - Morey Wolfson (CO), Utilities Program Manager, Governor's Energy Office
 - Joanna Prukop (NM), Secretary, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
 - Dian Greuneich (CA), Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
 - Jessica Youle (AZ), Senior Director of Energy Policy
- 4:45 p.m. Questions and answers
- 5:15 p.m. Adjourn

Western Renewable Energy Zones Project
Steering Committee Roster

Arizona

Governor Janet Napolitano

Designated Representative: Jessica Youle, Arizona Department of Commerce
Chairman Mike Gleason, Arizona Corporation Commission

California

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Designated Representative: Darren Bouton, California Governor's Office
Commissioner Dian Grueneich, California Public Utilities Commission

Colorado

Governor Bill Ritter

Designate Representative: Morey Wolfson, Governor's Energy Office
Commissioner James Tarpey, Colorado Public Utilities Commission

Idaho

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter

Designated Representative: Paul Kjellander, Idaho Office of Energy Resources
Chairman Mack Redford, Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Montana

Governor Brian Schweitzer

Designated Representative: Tom Kaiserski, Montana Department of Commerce,
Energy, Infrastructure Promotion and Development
Chairman Greg Jergeson, Montana Public Service Commission

Nevada

Governor Jim Gibbons

Designated Representative: Dr. Hatice Gecol, Nevada State Office of Energy or
Ryan McGinness, State of Nevada Washington, DC Office
Commissioner Rebecca Wagner, Nevada Public Utilities Commission

New Mexico

Governor Bill Richardson

Designated Representative: Joanna Prukop, Governor's Office, New Mexico
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources
Chairman Jason Marks, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

ATTACHMENT B

Oregon

Governor Ted Kulongoski

Designated Representative: Commissioner John Savage, Oregon Public Utility
Commission

Commissioner John Savage, Oregon Public Utility Commission

ATTACHMENT B

Utah

Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.

Designated Representative: Dianne R. Nielson, Utah Governor's Office
Chairman Ted Boyer, Utah Public Service Commission

Washington

Governor Christine Gregoire

Designated Representative: Howard Schwartz, Washington Department of
Community, Trade and Economic Development
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission: *TBD*

Wyoming

Governor Dave Freudenthal

Designated Representative: Steve Ellenbecker, Wyoming Governor's Office
Chairman Cindy Lewis, Wyoming Public Service Commission

Canada

Alberta – Anne Denman, Ministry of Electricity & Alternative Energy

British Columbia - Les MacLaren, Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources

Mexico

Baja California - Governor José Guadalupe Osuna Millán or designee

Ex officio Members

Department of Agriculture – *TBD*

Department of Energy

Assistant Secretary Andy Karsner, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Assistant Secretary Kevin Kolevar, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Commissioner Sudeen Kelly
Commissioner Philip Moeller

Participants List

Name	Title	Company	Region
Adler, Lin		Citizens for Dixie's Future	UT
Alexander, Bill	Chief Development Officer	NATURENER USA LLC	CA
Amirali, Ali	VP Transmission	LS Power Development, LLC	CA
Andersen, Glen		NCSL	CO
Anderson, Bob		Western Grid Group	NV
Anderson, Jerald	President	Mt. Wheeler Power	UT
Arenson, Steven	Environmental Planner	Air Force Western Regional Environmental Office	CA
Argentine, Michael	Director, Transmission Devel.	FPL Energy	CA
Aringhoff, Rainer	CEO	Solar Millennium LLP	CA
Ayers-Brasher, Jennifer	Transmission Manager	E.ON Climate & Renewables North America Inc.	TX
Bartridge, Jim		California Energy Commission	CA
Bayless, Richard	Dir. Tech Serv	Northern Tier Transmission Group NTTG	OR
Benjamin, Charles	Director, Nevada Office	Western Resource Advocates	NV
Berry, Jason	Manager	Utah State Energy Program	UT
Bitsuie, Roman	Executive Director	Navajo Nation	AZ
Blaug, Elisabeth	For FERC Commissioner Kelly	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	DC
Bone, Traci	Advisor	California Public Utilities Commission	CA
Bouton, Darren	Advisor	California Governor's Office	CA
Boyd, Hap		GE Energy	CA
Boyer, Ted	Chairman	Utah Public Service Commision	UT
Brady, Ray	Energy Manager	Bureau of Land Management	DC
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Burke, Jon	Business Development Manager	Shell WindEnergy Inc.	TX
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Byrne, Jim		Western Grid Group	UT
Byrnes, Mary	Commissioner	Wyoming Public Service Commission	WY
Byron, Jeffrey	Commissioner	CA Energy Commission	CA
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Carroll,	Executive Director Dine	Dine College, Navajo Nation	NM

ATTACHMENT C

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DeAngelis, M		Sacramento Municipal Utility District	CA
Deike, Karen		WGA	CO
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Desy, Kelly	Government Programs Specialist	SolFocus, Inc.	CA
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Draper, Del		The Williams Companies	UT
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Fair, Thomas	Executive, Renewable Energy Program	Nevada Power Company	NV
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Garnett, Mitchell	Utility Marketing Manager	ESRI	WA
Gawell, Karl	Executive Director	Geothermal Energy Assn	DC
Gecol, Hatice	Energy/Science Advisor to Governor Gibbons and Director, Nevada State Office of Energy	Nevada Governor's Office	NV
Gleason, Mike	Chairman	Arizona Corporation Commission	AZ
Grueneich, Dian	Commissioner	California Public Utilities Commission	CA
Gutierrez, Veronica	Director of Public Affairs	Edison International	CA
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ATTACHMENT C

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Zichella, Carl	Regional Staff Director	Sierra Club	CA

ⁱ Handouts from the meeting are available at www.westgov.org.

ⁱⁱ The WREZ workplan is available at www.westgov.org.