

TO: State-Provincial Steering Committee

FROM: Doug Larson

DATE: May 15, 2010

SUBJECT: **Recent developments**

Staff support for the SPSC

I am delighted to announce that Steve Ellenbecker will be joining the WIEB staff in early June. Steve's primary responsibility will be to support the important work of the State-Provincial Steering Committee (SPSC). With Steve's help, I expect that staff will be able to significantly improve communications with SPSC members.

I want to thank Dianne Nielson, WIEB Vice Chair and SPSC Vice Chair, Marsha Smith, past Treasurer of WIEB, and John Savage, Chair of the SPSC and the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation for participating in the interview committee. We received a number of highly qualified applicants in response to the job announcement in January. However, Steve brings to the job qualifications uniquely needed in this position. He has served on the staff and been past chairman of a state public utility commission; he has been the energy advisor to a Governor; and he has been the executive director of a state transmission infrastructure authority. As a result of his membership on the WGA Staff Council and past chairmanship of the Council, Steve is very familiar with the activities of the Western Governors' Association and will provide a strong link to WGA work on water and wildlife issues. His qualifications made Steve uniquely qualified to support the SPSC.

Contract to support SPSC

Contracts between DOE and WGA and between WGA and WIEB have been executed that provide financial support for the work of the State-Provincial Steering Committee. The contracts implement the revised scope of work for the SPSC and other Topic B tasks submitted to DOE in February.

Seams Coordination Tool/Energy Imbalance Service

At its April meeting, the SPSC approved a recommendation from the Grid Utilization Work Group that WECC fund a study of the costs and benefits of a Seams Coordination Tool/Energy Imbalance Service proposal. The SPSC also committed \$25,000 to the study, contingent on the creation of a high-level oversight committee and state-provincial participation in any technical group established to guide the study work. (WIRAB adopted the same action earlier in April.)

On April 30, the WECC Board voted to fund the study subject to a decision on WECC's overall proposed 2011 budget in late June. The WECC Board also created an oversight

committee consisting of representatives of each of the WECC classes (Marsha Smith, ID PUC, is the Class 5 representative), plus the Chair of WECC's Market Interface Committee, and me as a WIRAB representative.

WECC's oversight committee met yesterday. It appears that WECC is moving in the direction recommended by the SPSC. However, before concluding that WECC has substantially met the conditions place on SPSC (and WIRAB) financial support, we need to see a revised written description of the activities of the oversight committee and a new technical advisory subcommittee. Staff will provide the SPSC with this information when it becomes available.

On a related note, BPA is organizing a trip by Northwest utilities to the Southwest Power Pool on June 9-10 to discuss SPP's experience with its Energy Imbalance Service. BPA has offered to include several state/provincial representatives on the trip. **Please advise me (dlarson@westgov.org; 303.573.8910) on Monday, if you would like to join the trip. Funds are available to cover travel costs.**

Resource Planners' Forum

WECC's Topic A grant proposal to DOE called for holding meetings of utility and state/provincial resource planners. The first such meeting is being held on June 21-22 in San Diego. Last week, letters of invitation were sent to utility CEOs and PUC chairs. The letters ask utilities and CEOs to send a resource planning expert to the meeting. The letters were jointly signed by the CEO of WECC, the Executive Director of WGA and John Savage on behalf of the SPSC, CREPC and the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners.

An committee consisting of several utility resource planners, WECC staff, Jim Tarpey, SPSC Scenarios Work Group chair, John Savage, and WIEB staff has been formed to develop the meeting agenda. Among the objectives of the meeting are to secure feedback from resource planners on the elements of the January SPSC 2010 study request to TEPPC and to launch Phase 3 of the Western Renewable Energy Zone project (exploring coordinated procurement of renewable from preferred renewable areas). A meeting agenda should be available in the next couple of weeks.

You can [click here for meeting logistical information and to register](#) for the meeting. **Travel funds are available for state/provincial participation in the meeting.** For more information on travel funds, contact Alison Wilson at awilson@westgov.org or 303-573-8910.

WECC update for Scenario Planning Steering Group members

WECC has begun a useful update of activities of the WECC Scenario Planning Steering Group (SPSG). Staff is contributing information on SPSC activities. Click [here](#) for the most recent update.

Next meeting

Pursuant to the decision at the April 23 SPSC meeting, hotel arrangements are being made for the next meeting of the SPSC in Salt Lake City on the afternoon of September 14 and morning of September 15, just before meetings of the WECC Scenario Planning Steering Group and TEPPC. To minimize travel time and cost, the fall meeting of CREPC will be held on the afternoon September 13 and morning of September 14. Staff will be providing details on the meetings.

Please contact me (dlarson@westgov.org; 303.573.8910) if you have any questions.