

The first meeting of the State-Provincial Steering Committee
Tempe, Arizona
November 6, 2009

Based on the discussion of its role and tasks, the Steering Committee made the following decisions:

1. Adopted decision rules that Steering Committee actions require the affirmative votes of one-half of the participating states/provinces, and those states/provinces voting for an action must represent at least one-half of the load of the participating states/provinces in the Western Interconnection.
2. Elected John Savage (OR PUC), chair of the Steering Committee.
3. Established three work groups –
 - a. Demand Side Management Work Group chaired by Dian Greunich (CA PUC). The DSM Work Group will work closely with TEPPC to minimize duplication of effort.
 - b. Grid Utilization Work Group chaired by Steve Oxley (WY PSC). Also joining the work group are Jim Tarpey (CO PUC) and Kristin Mayes (ACC). An initial task of the Grid Utilization Work Group will be to develop a scope of work. [Staff suggests the name Grid Utilization Work Group instead of System Efficiency Work Group to avoid confusion with the work of the Demand Side Management Work Group.]
 - c. Scenarios Work Group chaired by Jim Tarpey (CO PUC). John Savage (OR PUC) is also a member. The Scenarios Work Group will initially explore potential electricity future scenarios outside a high efficiency scenario.
4. Agreed to hold a conference call of the Chair of the Steering Committee and the chairs of the work groups to discuss work group products and to bring a proposal to the next meeting of the Steering Committee.
5. Made a preliminary decision, pending DOE funding, to reimburse state/provincial travel to Topic A WECC and subregional planning groups. Staff will be informed prior to travel to coordinate reimbursement.
6. Agreed to invite representatives from the WGA Wildlife Council and the Western States' Water Council to participate as ex-officio members of the State-Provincial Steering Committee.
7. Directed staff to prepare a matrix of WECC and subregional committees, subcommittees, and work groups that provide opportunities for state-provincial input into WECC's work.
8. Following development of the matrix, hold a conference call of the State-Provincial Steering Committee to decide on nominees to the WECC Scenario Planning Steering Group and to begin identifying state/provincial people who will be engaged in WECC subcommittees and work groups and subregional groups. We will need to pick a time for the call that is convenient for most members. However, participation in the call is not necessary to be nominated to the Scenario Planning Steering Group. The Committee also agreed on the need for state/provincial participants in WECC and subregional groups to be knowledgeable of the deliberations of the Steering Committee.

9. Directed staff to draft a proposed charter for the Steering Committee based on the decisions above.
10. Directed staff to assemble information on ongoing regional work related to the integration of variable generation. Work is underway in several forums to address this issue, including the WestConnect/NREL Western Wind and Solar Integration Study, the Northwest Wind Integration Forum, the NTTG-WestConnect-Columbia Grid Joint Initiatives and the WECC Variable Generation Subcommittee. Staff will incorporate views from these forums on where states/provinces can be constructively involved.
11. Requested that Rich Halvey (WGA staff) provide a paper on plug-in electric vehicles.
12. Depending on Department of Energy decisions on funding under Topic B of the FOA, hold a second meeting before January 19. (Staff received a request to avoid the dates of January 11-15.)

Next Steps

1. Please advise staff (dlarson@westgov.org) if you would like to join one of the Steering Committee Work Groups.
2. Staff will develop and send to the Steering Committee a matrix of WECC and subregional committees, subcommittees and work groups relevant to the work of the Steering Committee and schedule a conference call to discuss state-provincial participation on those bodies.
3. Staff will draft a proposed charter for the Steering Committee.
4. Staff will organize a call of the Steering Committee chair and work group chairs to begin discussions on work group products.
5. Staff will prepare a paper on ongoing regional work on the integration of variable generation.
6. An invitation will be extended to the WGA Wildlife Council and the Western States' Water Council to identify an ex-officio representative to the Steering Committee.