

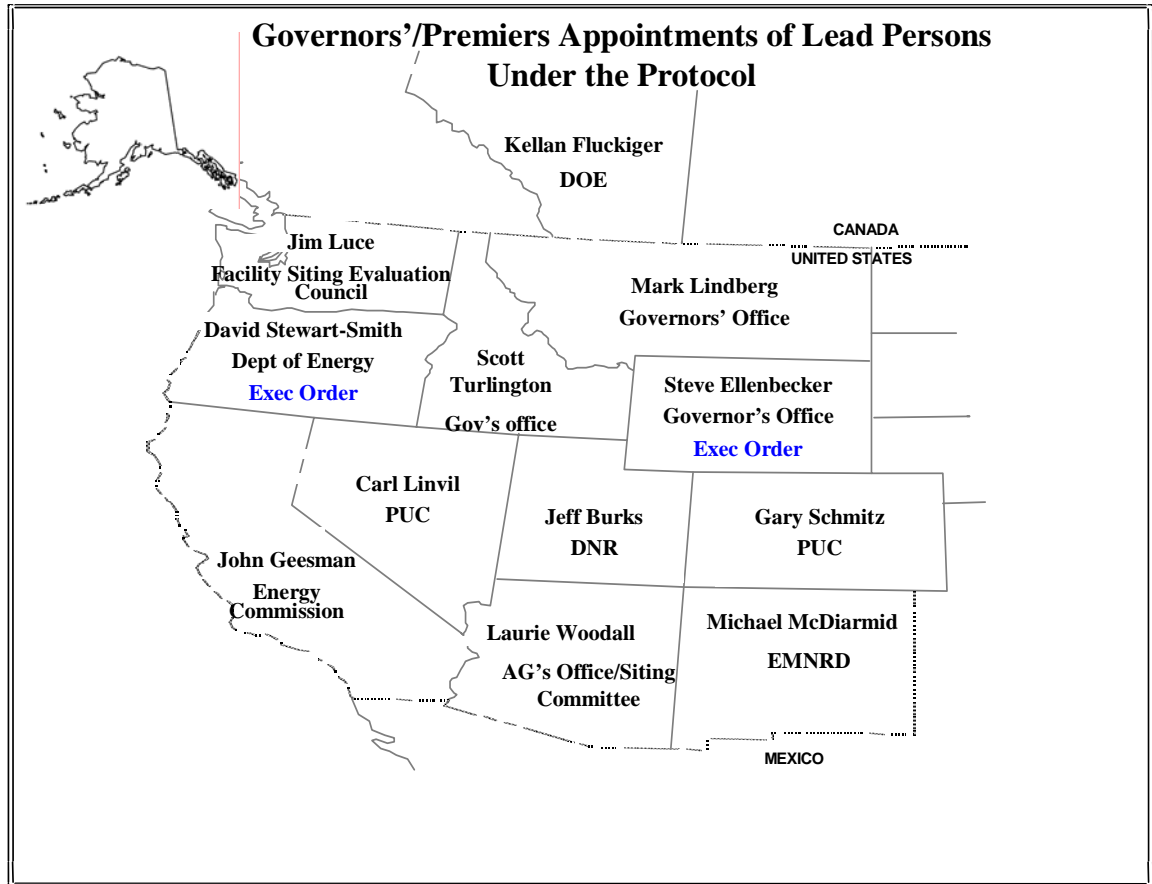
***Report on the Implementation of the
WGA Transmission Permitting Protocol
June 2004***

This report of the Western Interstate Energy Board summarizes activities to implement the WGA Transmission Permitting Protocol. The report is required under the provisions of the Protocol.

- As of June 2004, the governors of 12 Western states have signed the WGA Transmission Permitting Protocol (AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY).
- Four federal agencies have signed the Protocol (Departments of Energy, Interior, and Agriculture and the Council on Environmental Quality).
- In April 2004, Premier Klein of Alberta signed an Addendum to the Protocol.
- Eleven governors and the Premier of Alberta have appointed lead state persons under the Protocol. See map below.
- The governors of two states have signed executive orders as a means of implementing the Protocol.
- A web page has been created to support the Protocol (<http://www.westgov.org/wieb/electric/Transmission%20Protocol/index.htm>)
- No new interstate transmission line has been proposed in the West that would trigger the Protocol.
- In April 2004, in conjunction with the WGA North American Energy Summit, the Western Interstate Energy Board held an ad hoc meeting of several of the state and federal agency lead persons under the Protocol to discuss potential transmission projects that may trigger the Protocol and actions that would help implement the Protocol.
 - The first new interstate transmission line proposal may be a 500 kV line from Palo Verde in Arizona to Devers in Southern California, however, regional transmission planning processes in the West, such as the Rocky Mountain Area Transmission Study, and individual project sponsors, may generate additional interstate transmission proposals that would trigger the Protocol.
 - There is value in initiating the Protocol and forming a Project Team prior to the filing of a formal application for permitting in order to develop the necessary lines of communication among agencies.

Background

Lead State Persons: The following map shows the designation of state lead persons under the Protocol.



Key Elements of the Protocol: The goal of the Protocol is collaborative reviews of permits for proposed interstate transmission projects. The Protocol does not preempt existing authorities of any agency. The permit review process under the Protocol provides for:

- Governors to designate members of a Project Team from the state permitting agencies involved;
- Development of information by the Team to help enable agency decisions on project “need” ;
- Joint activities in collecting and housing records, conducting environmental reviews, developing timelines, and making and responding to information requests;
- Transparency and sharing of information; and
- Early and continued participation of federal agencies and power marketing administrations to the extent possible under their enabling legislation.